

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPHSS OFFICIALS CONFIRM THREE NEW CASES

Public Health Emphasizes Shared Responsibility

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) has received information from a reference laboratory that 3 of the additional samples sent for analysis have been confirmed to be the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus. Two of the newly confirmed cases are household contacts to the first case/index patient and the third case is an unrelated case from a private clinic. These individuals have been on voluntary home isolation and their contacts have been under close surveillance. All of the confirmed cases are recovering well without any complications at this time.

There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. DPHSS strongly continues to urge the shared responsibility of being proactive and take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick for seven days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

DPHSS continues to collaborate on surveillance activities with key partners to ensure that ill individuals from affected areas are quickly identified and assessed by DPHSS surveillance team.

For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov; the Department of Public Health and Social Services website at www.dphss.guam.gov; or Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website at www.guamhs.org. You may also call the Information Line at 735-H1N1 (4161).